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# Hill Leaders Vow To Back Carter On Agency Shifts

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LOVEJOY, Ga., Nov. 17 —

President-elect Jimmy Carter won tacit approval from congressional leaders today for authority to reorganize the executive branch subject to veto by Congress.

Carter told the leaders in a three-hour meeting that he would consult with them before submitting his major legislative proposals.

Despite reports that Carter and Congress were getting off to a shaky start, he and 16 members of the House and Senate Democratic leadership emerged smiling and pledging cooperation after a luncheon at the antebellum home of Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.) about 30 miles south of Atlanta.

Both Carter and his congressional guests told reporters afterward that Carter's campaign pledge for a bureaucratic overhaul was discussed in general terms and no objections were raised to the idea of reinstating recently expired presidential authority, dating back to the 1950s, to propose executive branch changes subject to congressional veto.

During the campaign, Carter, charging that the federal bureaucracy was "inefficient" and "wasteful," said reorganization was a must and suggested that the 1,900 federal departments and agencies could be reduced to 200, although he never spelled out exactly how.

"I would like for the Congress to take the fullest possible action commensurate with congressional restraints, with constitutional restraints, to direct me to make the executive branch efficient," Carter said today.

He said no formal action was taken at the meeting but there was "remarkable compatibility" between him and the leaders on all matters discussed. Said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Russell B. Long (D-La.): "Everyone seemed to be inviolable."

"If the meeting this afternoon was any indication of what lies ahead for this country insofar as congressional-presidential relations are concerned,

the omens are all good." Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), who is retiring in January, told reporters after the meeting.

"The President-elect said he wanted peace in the world, he wanted the economy of America to be moving and he wanted a balanced budget . . . We will work with him to that end," said House Majority Leader and Speaker-

-to-be Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.), who added later, "He will have 100 per cent cooperation from me."

Carter called it a "very fruitful interchange of ideas" and said he brought to it "a pledge on my part to do everything I can to restore harmony between the White House and the congressional leadership."

This was a reference to eight years of often-strained relations between the Republican-controlled White House and Democratic-dominated Congress. But Carter himself campaigned as a Washington "outsider" and ruffled some feathers on Capitol Hill, both by the conduct of his campaign and by initial staff contacts with key people in Congress.

Carter press secretary Jody Powell said after the meeting that several participants, whom he identified as "a couple of senators and a high-ranking member of the House" praised Carter's congressional relations aide, Frank Moore. Powell labeled as a "cheap shot" a recent Washington Post story reporting that there was congressional dissatisfaction with Moore's liaison efforts.

The meeting at Talmadge's farm, in which Carter was joined by Vice President-elect Walter F. Mondale and Democratic National Chairman Robert S. Strauss, begins an intensified phase of Carter's preparations for assumption of the presidency Jan. 20. The preparations will include meetings with CIA Director George Bush on Friday, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on Saturday and President Ford on Monday.

During today's meeting, Carter told the Democrats he wanted to contact Republican congressional leaders in an attempt to establish bipartisan cooperation in foreign policy, according to an aide who was present.

The first meeting between Carter and the defeated President has been

plans further meetings with congressional leaders, including O'Neill, during his visit to Washington on Monday and Tuesday—his first trip to the capital since his Nov. 2 election victory.

Although the congressional entourage had to fly from Washington to Atlanta and then drive here for the meeting, Carter aides described the Talmadge farm site—congressional turf in the sense that it belongs to a member of Congress—as a gesture of respect to the lawmakers.

But it was Southern all the way. The white-columned Talmadge house played a bit part in "Gone with the Wind," appearing early in the film as a glimpse of the fading antebellum South, according to Talmadge, who received the mansion as a gift from his father, former Gov. Eugene Talmadge. The lunch included country ham and fried chicken, a cheese-flavored grits casserole, turnip greens and cornbread.

Carter and Mondale flew here from Americus, near Carter's home in Plains, through foggy, rainy weather that raised questions about their safety in the mind of Americus airport manager Boyd Roddey. "I'm astounded that they let him take off," said Roddey, as Carter and Mondale took off separately in twin-engine chartered private planes. "It's crazy."

After the meeting, Carter attempted to soften the impact of his press conference suggestion earlier in the week that the American people might have to tolerate an unemployment rate of 5 per cent or more for the "bulk" of his four-year term. He said that because the unemployment rate is now about 8 per cent, "obviously during part of my term we would have 5 or 6 per cent unemployment" but stressed that his goal is to reduce the rate to 4 or 4½ per cent as soon as possible.

The unemployment rate now is 7.9 per cent.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), a leader in congressional efforts to reduce unemployment, said he had no quarrel with Carter's approach.

Others attending the meeting were Sens. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Floyd K. Haskell (D-Colo.) and Reps. James J. Delaney (D-N.Y.), Al Ullman (D-Ore.), Brock Adams (D-Wash.), George H. Mahon (D-Tex.), Andrew Young (D-Ga.) and John J. Flynt Jr. (D-Ga.).

After the session Carter was asked if he still felt like a Washington "outsider." He laughed, looked around him and said: "I'm beginning to feel more and more like a Washington insider."